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REPORT

TOPIC Polish Troops in LesznoEVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED Germany/MunichDATE OF CONTENT                      50X1-HUMDATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 2 May 1951REFERENCES                     PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS                      50X1-HUM**DO NOT CIRCULATE**

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1. The undamaged barracks installation in Leszno (P 52/C 09) is situated at the eastern edge of the town. It consists of six four-story barracks buildings, a headquarters building, the kitchen and utilities building, a repair shop with garage, and supply building with a ramp and a railroad spur. Prior to April 1950, two units of about 100 troops each were quartered in each of the six barracks buildings. The headquarters building contained offices, a practice room for the band and NCOs billets. The kitchen building was furnished with 8 new model Senking kitchen boilers in the summer of 1948. The repair shop building housed an armory, a motor vehicle repair shop and a garage for one truck and about 10 passenger cars. Weapons and articles of clothing arrived by rail and were unloaded at the supply building in the summer of 1947 and in the fall of 1949.
2. The Polish unit in the installation numbered about 300 NCOs and 1,200 young EM who were equipped with infantry arms only. During an inspection, source observed that the unit was organized into 12 companies. The commanding officer was a colonel who, according to local residents, had arrived in Leszno in October 1949. Before an inspection in 1949,                      50X1-HUM  
a high-ranking field officer of the 50X1-HUM  
47th Regt was expected to arrive from Poznan (P 53/X 26) for the inspection.
3.                      recruits arrived each fall from 1947 50X1-HUM  
through 1949 and were shipped out again by rail in March of the following year. The shipment in March 1949 was dispatched to the Biedrusko (P 53/X 27) troop training grounds. The recruits did not return to Leszno, but were distributed to other units in the Poznan District. About 200 drill instructors and soldiers earmarked for duty as instructors returned to Leszno. (1)
4. The weapons observed with the unit prior to the fall of 1949 included long Soviet rifles of an old model, long Soviet rifles with a fixed three-edged bayonet, German model 98-k rifles, and light machine guns which resembled the German model 34. Two railroad carloads of boxes containing infantry

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rifles arrived in late January 1950. The railroad cars had Czech inscriptions and came from Breslau (P 52/C 41). They were unloaded by women internees.  
(2)

5. No other military units were stationed in Leszno.

6. In late February 1950, the barracks installation in Leszno, situated on the highway to Osieczna (P 52/X 10), quartered Polish troops. They often marched from the installation in two or three columns of 120 to 130 soldiers each. Women internees employed as charwomen and kitchen helpers in the installation stated positively that the troops were infantrymen, allegedly of battalion strength. About 90 horses were observed with the unit. (3)

7. A horse-drawn artillery unit was seen moving through Leszno in February 1950. The unit had eight rather short barreled guns on solid tires. Each gun was attached to a limber drawn by four horses. [redacted] an artillery unit was also located in Leszno, and was separate from the infantry unit.

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8. No Soviet soldiers or vehicles were seen in Leszno.

[redacted] Comment.

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- (1) The information indicates that the unit may have been a training battalion of an infantry regiment.
- (2) Poland possibly received infantry arms from Czech industry which is known to manufacture light infantry arms.
- (3) The information supports the conclusion that the unit was only a battalion.

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